

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 4 and 5, and respectfully traverse the remaining claim rejections for the reasons that follow:

I. EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

The Examiner and Applicants' attorney conducted a telephone interview on November 11, 2004. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 and 6-9 would most likely overcome the cited prior art if amended to make clear that the gas channel does not extend to the gas outlet surface of the membrane body, and that claims 10-16 would most likely overcome the cited prior art if amended to change the *arrangement* operable to introduce the glass gobs to *a glass introduction device* operable to introduce the glass gobs.

Applicants have rewritten claim 10 in independent form and have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter and have adequate support throughout the Specification. Accordingly, it is now believed that all pending claims 1-16 are in allowable condition.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 6-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 6-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,908,735 to Di Candia (hereinafter "Di Candia"). As described above, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, and the Examiner has indicated that such amendments would overcome the cited references. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Di Candia does not disclose a gas channel that "[does not extend] to the gas outlet surface of the membrane body," and does not disclose "*a glass introduction device* operable to introduce the glass gobs," as recited within the context of the claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 6-16 are allowable over Di Candia. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

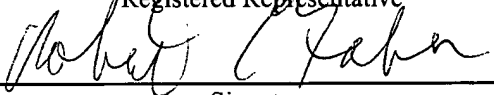
III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are currently in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 30, 2004:

Robert C. Faber

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

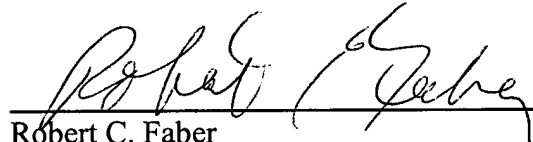


Signature

November 30, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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